THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) guides the educational development in its entirety and covers all levels of education including higher education. As such, separate policy for the development of higher education is not considered necessary. There has been all round development at all levels of education including higher education. The higher education system has increased about fourteen-fold in terms of the number of universities and about thirty-three-fold in terms of the number of colleges, in comparison to the number at the time of independence. The University Grants Commission, a statutory organisation, looks after the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education.

Seven Committees of the Central Advisory Board of Education have since been set up on various issues relating to education sector. For higher education, a Committee has been constituted on the subject of "Autonomy of Higher Education Institutions" to suggest measures for enhancing the autonomy of higher education institutions, especially those with potential for excellence and to institutionalise regulatory provisions for promoting autonomy and accountability of higher education institutions. Another Committee on the subject of "Financing of Higher and Technical Education" has been set up to examine the adequacy of investments in Higher/Technical Education and to find ways of augmenting the resource flow in Higher Education, the question of a fair share of 6% of GDP for Education, and to suggest the ways of encouraging and regulating private participation and investments in Higher/Technical Education.

Modernization of Madarsas

3314. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount Government have allocated for modernization of Madarsas during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what facilities are being provided to the Madarsas under this scheme;

(c) how much salaries are being provided to the teachers appointed therein; and

(d) whether any assessment has been made about the impact of this scheme on Madarsa education and its modernization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Since 1993-94, the Central Government has been implementing a scheme of Financial Assistance for Modernization of Madarsa Education through State Governments under which 100% financial assistance is provided. Its objective is to encourage traditional institutions like Madarsa/Maktabs to teach modern subjects such as Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Hindi, without any interference in their traditional curriculum. Under the scheme, salary of maximum two teachers @ Rs. 3000/- pm for Primary teacher and Rs. 4000/- pm for Secondary teacher, besides one-time grants of Rs. 7000/- per Madarsa, for the pruchase of Science/Math kits and a lump sum amount of Rs. 7000/- per madarsa for book-bank for strengthening of libraries is also provided through State Government. It is clarified that the teachers are not appointed by the Central Government or State Governments, they are appointed by the NGOs/Madarsas/Maktabs itself. From Tenth Five Year Plan, it has been merged in the unified scheme of Area Intensive and Madarsa Modernization Programme. The funds allocated for the last three years i.e. 2002-03 and 2003-04 were Rs. 3150.00 lakh each and for 2004-2005 is Rs. 2900.00 lakh respectively.

Funds and future plans for women and child development

3315. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds earmarked for women and child development schemes during the last two years;

(b) the details of these funds utilized by various States; and

(c) the details of the projects likely to be undertaken during the next two years for development of women and child development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Details of funds earmarked for women and child development schemes and funds released to the states during the last two years are available in the Annual Reports (2002-03 & 2003-04) of the Department which are available in the Library of Rajya Sabha.

(c) Projects under various schemes of the Department (as referred above)